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*B1* (b) a sheath comprising a hollow body for removably covering at least a portion of the stent, wherein the body comprises a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body or the layer.

Please Cancel Claim 2 without prejudice.

*Sub 1* 3. (Amended) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the kit further includes a catheter and a balloon integrated with the catheter.

*B2* 4. (Amended) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the layer is made from a polymeric material selected from a group consisting of polyolefins, polyurethanes, derivatives of cellulose, polyesters, polyamides, poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), poly(hydroxy amide ethers), polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate copolymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), liquid crystal polymers, poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrenes, polycarbonates, poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), epoxies composed of bisphenol A based diepoxides with amine cure, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), poly(amino ethers), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Amended) The kit of Claim 4, wherein the polyolefins are selected from a group consisting of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.

6. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject;

and

(b) a sheath comprising a hollow body for removably covering at least a portion of the stent, wherein the body comprises a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body or the layer, wherein the layer is made from a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.

7. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject;  
and

B2 (b) a sheath comprising a hollow body for removably covering at least a portion of the stent, wherein the body comprises a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body or the layer, wherein the layer is made from a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment, the non-polar soft segment is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and mixtures thereof.

8. (Amended Twice) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject;  
and

(b) a sheath comprising a hollow body for removably covering at least a portion of the stent, wherein the body comprises a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body or the layer, wherein the layer is made from derivatives of cellulose selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Amended) The kit of Claim 4, wherein the polyesters are selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.

10. (Amended) The kit of Claim 4, wherein the polyamides are selected from a group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.

11. (Amended Twice) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the layer is made from a polymeric material and fillers added to the polymeric material.

12. (Amended) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the layer is made from glass.

13. (Amended) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the layer is made from a metallic material.

14. (Amended Twice) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the layer comprises a therapeutic substance contacting surface having a metallic substance disposed on the therapeutic substance contacting surface.

15. (Amended Twice) The kit of Claim 1, wherein the layer comprises a therapeutic substance contacting surface, the therapeutic substance contacting surface having a coating of a main group element oxide formed thereon, the main group element oxide coating is selected from a group of silicon oxide and metal oxide.

48. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) a medicated stent; and
- (b) a sheath for packaging the medicated stent during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow, tubular body in which the medicated stent is housed during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath being made from a material having an oxygen transmission rate of not more than about 200 cc/100 in<sup>2</sup>, for 1 mil per 24 hours at 73° F, 75% relative humidity, and 1 atmosphere.

49. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) a medicated stent; and
- (b) a sheath for packaging the medicated stent during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow, tubular body in which the medicated stent is

housed during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath being made from a material having a water vapor transmission rate of not more than 20 gm/100 in<sup>2</sup>, for 1 mil per 24 hours at 100° F, 90% relative humidity, and 1 atmosphere.

50. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent having a coating containing a medication; and

(b) a sheath for packaging the coated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow tubular

body in which the stent can be removably inserted, wherein the body is made from a material that prevents the medication from significantly diffusing out from the coating of the stent.

51. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject; and

(b) a sheath covering at least a portion of the stent, the sheath being made from a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the sheath.

Please cancel Claims 52 and 53.

54. (Amended) The kit of Claim 51, wherein the material is selected from a group consisting of polyolefins, polyurethanes, derivatives of cellulose, polyesters, polyamides, poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), poly(hydroxyamide ethers), polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate copolymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), liquid crystal polymers, poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrenes, polycarbonates, poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), epoxies composed of bisphenol A based diepoxides with amine cure, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), poly(amino ethers), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, and mixture thereof.

55. (Amended) The kit of Claim 54, wherein the polyolefins are selected from a group consisting of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.

56. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) an implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject; and
- (b) a sheath made from a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the sheath, wherein the material is a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.

57. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

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- (a) an implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject; and
  - (b) a sheath made from a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the sheath, wherein the material is a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment, the non-polar soft segment is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and mixtures thereof.

58. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) an implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject; and
- (b) a sheath made from a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the sheath, wherein the material is made from derivatives of cellulose selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution

greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

59. (Amended) The kit of Claim 54, wherein the polyesters are selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.

60. (Amended) The kit of Claim 54, wherein the polyamides are selected from a group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.

61. (Amended) The kit of Claim 51, wherein the material is a polymeric material having fillers added thereto.

62. (Amended) The kit of Claim 51, wherein the material comprises glass.

63. (Amended) The kit of Claim 51, wherein the material comprises a metallic material.

64. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject;

and

(b) a sheath comprising a hollow body for removably covering at least a portion of the stent, wherein the body comprises a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body or the layer, wherein the layer is a sulfonated or a fluorinated polymeric layer.

65. (Amended) A medical kit, comprising:

(a) a stent carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject;

and

(b) a sheath comprising a hollow body for removably covering at least a portion of the stent, wherein the body comprises a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from

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B4 significantly absorbing into the body or the layer, wherein the layer is made from a carbide or nitride compound.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub E 66. (New) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) a medicated stent; and
- (b) a sheath for packaging the medicated stent during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow, tubular body in which the medicated stent is contained during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, an inner surface of the sheath being covered with a material having an oxygen transmission rate of not more than about 200 cc/100 in<sup>2</sup>, for 1 mil per 24 hours at 73° F, 75% relative humidity, and 1 atmosphere.

B5 67. (New) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) a medicated stent; and
- (b) a sheath for packaging the medicated stent during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, the sheath comprising a hollow, tubular body in which the medicated stent is contained during transportation or storage of the medicated stent, an inner surface of the sheath being covered with a material having a water vapor transmission rate of not more than 20 gm/100 in<sup>2</sup>, for 1 mil per 24 hours at 100° F, 90% relative humidity, and 1 atmosphere.

68. (New) A medical kit, comprising:

- (a) a stent having a coating containing a therapeutic substance; and
- (b) a sheath for packaging the stent, the sheath comprising a hollow tubular body in which the stent can be removably inserted, wherein the body is lined with a material that prevents the medication from significantly diffusing out from the coating of the stent.

69. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body made of a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body, wherein the material comprises a sulfonated or a fluorinated polymer.

70. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body made of a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body, wherein the material comprises a carbide or nitride compound.

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71. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body made of a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly diffusing out from the medical device, wherein the material is selected from a group consisting of:

- (a) polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature;
- (b) polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment, the non-polar soft segment is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and mixtures thereof;
- (c) a derivative of cellulose selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof;
- (d) sulfonated polymers;
- (e) fluorinated polymers;
- (f) carbide compounds;



- (g) nitride compounds;
- (h) a polyolefin selected from a group consisting of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof;
- (i) a polyester selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof;
- (j) a polyamide selected from a group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof; and
- (k) mixtures thereof

72. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body comprising a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly diffusing out from the medical device, wherein the layer is made from a material selected from a group consisting of:

- (a) polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature;
- (b) polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment, the non-polar soft segment is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and mixtures thereof;
- (c) a derivative of cellulose selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof;
- (d) sulfonated polymers;
- (e) fluorinated polymers;
- (f) carbide compounds;
- (g) nitride compounds;

(h) a polyolefin selected from a group consisting of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof;

(i) a polyester selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof;

(j) a polyamide selected from a group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof; and

(k) mixtures thereof.

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73. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body made of a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body, wherein the material comprises a polyolefin, wherein the polyolefin is selected from a group consisting of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.

74. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body comprising a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the layer, wherein the layer is made from a material comprising a polyolefin, wherein the polyolefin is selected from a group consisting of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.

75. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath

comprising a hollow body made of a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body, wherein the material comprises a polyester, wherein the polyester is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.

76. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body comprising a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the layer, wherein the layer is made from a material comprising a polyester, wherein the polyester is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.

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77. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body made of a material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the body, wherein the material comprises a polyamide, wherein the polyamide is selected from a group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.

78. (New) A sheath for covering an implantable medical device, the implantable medical device carrying a therapeutic substance which can be delivered to a subject, the sheath comprising a hollow body comprising a layer that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the layer, wherein the layer is made from a material comprising a polyamide, wherein the polyamide is selected from a group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.